

Ecosystem Health and Diversity
Issue Team Meeting Notes
Upper Deschutes RMP/EIS
12/11/01 at BLM, Prineville

Attending:

Scott McCaulou	Sue Stewart
Terry Morton	Mollie Chaudet
Michelle McSwain	Bob Davison
Stu Otto	Glen Ardt
Jon Stewart	Geoff Babb
Teal Purrington	Steve Castillo
Berta Youtie	John Swanson (guest)
Bill Dean	Robert Towne (guest)

Agenda:

- * Introductions
- * Issue Team Tasks
- * Interests Representation
- * Background, Resource Area Profile
- * Issue Descriptions
- * Action Items
- * Evaluation
- * Schedule next meetings

Issue Team Tasks

Mollie briefly described Issue Team tasks during this collaborative process over a span of up to 2 years: Review and refine issue descriptions, devise a range of alternatives to address issues, identify areas of consensus, develop a preferred alternative to recommend to PAC and BLM.

Interests Representation

Team listed all possible interests that would be associated with healthy and diverse ecosystems. Missing “permitted uses” perspective. Integrate with other teams. Missing staunch preservationist groups (ie. ONDA, ONRC, Sierra Club). They might not be interested in attending due to time constraints and “line drawn in the sand” stance. We still need to hear their opinions no matter how we get them. Partial solutions to missing interests on Issue Team would be to integrate written input (written comments to AMS and other correspondence), solicit input after all issue teams have integrated, notify of availability of Upper Deschutes EIS website.

Unrepresented groups that the team felt a need to involve to varying degrees:

Oregon Cattleman’s Assoc. - Teams thinks it is important to contact (Teal will contact, check first to see if Singhoses are members of OCA).

Firechiefs - Stu will contact

Environmental groups - Bob Davison will contact ONDA and Sierra Club

Oregon Small Woodlands Assoc. - Stu will contact/keep informed

Oregon Hunter's Assoc. - Rec team will contact

Background and Resource Area Profile

No time to summarize this information at this meeting. Team members should read the Area Profile (Chapter 3 in AMS) and become familiar with the resources within the planning area. We may do a very brief description of resources at the January 9th meeting.

Issue Descriptions

Mollie provided handout briefly describing components of an issue description.

Team then discussed the issues for the vegetation category (we only had time for vegetation). Steve provided two condensed broad issue statements for vegetation that encompassed issues described in the AMS:

VEGETATION

- Human influences (urban growth, off-road vehicles, fire exclusion, grazing, timber harvest, etc.) have/are impacting natural ecosystems.
- Components of natural vegetative communities (composition, density, structure) are out of balance compared with historic conditions.

Other specific issues stated were:

- AMS - Habitat needs of special status species
- AMS - Restorations of shrub/grassland habitat
- AMS - New emphasis on ecosystem sustainability and health
- AMS - Effects on old-growth juniper woodlands
- AMS - Expansion of juniper into shrub, pine and riparian habitats, effects on watershed, plants
- Stu - Lots about juniper, what about other forests
- Steve - La Pine is most of forest in planning area, lodepole, ponderosa pine
- Steve - We may integrate commercial forest, woodlands into ecosystem health and diversity
- AMS - Lack of natural disturbance = change in species
- Berta - Noxious weeds not in issue description
- Mollie - Refer to AMS Chapter 5 for info on how preliminary issues were identified, some concerns addressed under existing authority
- Bob - Nothing about current condition, this is critical info
- Berta - Data, including veg condition, was collected (SVIM) in 70s
- Sue - Data isn't very accessible or useable in it's present form. Working with our State Office to refine current satellite imagery for veg mapping.
- Teal - This will tell us coarse veg types but not condition.
- Bob/Steve - We need to read Area Profile and issue descriptions before we can discuss issues

effectively.

Action Items

1. Read handouts in this mailing. Review ground rules and come prepared to help finalize at the January 9 meeting. Also, review previous handouts, especially the Working Group Charter, Task Timeline, and Issue Team tentative agendas for future Issue Team meetings.
2. Review AMS sections as they relate to "Ecosystem Health and Diversity." Suggest reading applicable sections of Chapters 3, 4, and 5 where there is reference to soils, water quality/quantity, vegetation, wildlife, fire/fuels, and special management areas.
3. Review issue descriptions in AMS for the above categories (see pages 160, 164-166, and 173-175) and send comments by e-mail to Steve.Castillo@or.blm.gov by January 4. If the BLM e-mail/internet is not back in service by then, fax to Steve Castillo at (541) 416-6798. If you don't have fax access just bring your input with you to the January 9th meeting. Please consider the following questions in your issue comments: do the issue descriptions adequately describe the problems on public land? If not, what is missing? Do you have suggestions for revision of the issues stated in the AMS or new issues to consider?
4. Other action items: See individual tasks above for assignments to contact unrepresented groups.

Evaluation

- + ended on time
- + good agenda
- + good maps
- clarify purpose and products before meeting
- provide snacks
- schedule meeting during daytime
- lack of focus

Next Meeting - January 9, 2002, 9 am - noon at the USDA Service Center conference room in Redmond. We originally said the Redmond Library but it was not available.

Directions to USDA Service Center: From Hwy 97 take the Yew Ave. exit, turn east on Salmon Ave. (just north of the airport turn and adjacent to Lancair). Drive a short distance until you see the sign for the USDA Service Center.

Agenda:

- Ground Rules
- Issues (define what they are, review public comments, brainstorm additions/changes)
- Data Needs
- Integration with other teams
- Discuss next meeting agenda, evaluation.

January 31 meeting, 9 am - noon at BLM in Prineville